

**Attakullakulla (Cherokee Chief), July 17, 1761,  
Speech to William Byrd, Letters to Washington and  
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Murray Hamilton.**

***Attakukulla's*<sup>1</sup> Speech to Colonel Byrd, July 7, 1761.**

As I was Sent out by You a Messenger, to Deliver Your talk to the head Men of our Nation, and to bring You in an exact Acct. of The Disposition of The People in Regard to The present war, of all Their Transactions, & News Stiring among them, I am now Return'd for that Purpose and Shall be Very Open & Sincere in Telling You every Thing I know. Two Days before I set out two of our People came in from The Northward, where having talk'd with The head men of The Northern Nations gave us to understand, They intended to Strike the wite people again and were Desirous that all the Red people might unite, and as They Look'd upon Them to be Nothing, it would be easie to Distroy Them. — They Desir'd The Cherokees to be strong in The War and Not by any Means to listen to Peace, That They would join them heartily, and had sent word to all The French Down the River to Lend Their assistance.

That they would soon fall upon all The Forts which The white People had taken from The French, Not to Lurk about Them, but to Surprize and cut them off all at once, Then they would fall upon The Northern Colonies, while the Cherokees should Attack the Carolin's.

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That they had sent Large belts of Wampum to Invite the Creek, Chekasaus,<sup>2</sup> Choctaws &c. to Ingage with them in falling upon The English. — I do not tell this as a truth but only as News which I heard and this is all I know from The Northward.

A man who had been in the Creek Nation and Lately Return'd Inform'd me, that the People of that Nation had Lately kill'd all their Traders, & had taken up The Hatchett.

N. B. Afterwards he said he believ'd This to be true; but That Two Towns Nearest to Albaney Remain'd Neuter, gave Shelter to The Traders that escap'd, and Did this by The advice of the French who Disswad'd them from entering into a war, as they were Not able to Supply them with Necessaries.

when I heard that Col. Grant was coming with a Number of Warriars towards the Nation I went to Keowe to Meet him he was Not came up so far, and After I had Staid as Long as I Could to get home in The time Limitt'd for my Return, I Set out for Chota again.

Before I had got far I recd. a Message from Col. Grant, Desiring me to Stay untel he came up, as he had Something Materiall to say to me. I accordingly Return'd and at his talk he told me That he well knew my Attachment to the English, and the Service I had already Done them, on which Acct. he had The Greater friendship for me, and was so Desirous to see me that he Intended to Visit me in my Own Town this Summer to talk to The head Men, That he came as friend not as an Enemy, & that all the people might Remain in the greatest safety at home provid'd they would behave in The same amicable manner, Neither Molesting him nor any of the white people in Any Place whatever, if they Did he was Determine'd to kill them all and for that Reason Desir'd me to go back through the Towns immediately, Acquaint them of his talk'd [of] Resolution and then Return to Meet him in ten Days.

I accordingly went home and told Occonnerstota Otoseita The Standing Turkey and all the head Men who had been Active in The War what Col. Grant said to me, they were all

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Sensible of Their Error, Confess'd the English had always Spoken The truth to them, in saying That they Never should Ingage in a war against them, if they Did they would Loose all Their trade be Naked for want of Cloaths, and in fine be all Cut off, which They now saw would be the Consaquence, wherefore they were Determined to stay at home & Leave the Young Warriors to Themselves (they Refus'd) Though I prest Them to go with me to Col. Grant Alledging they were afraid. I then went of alone and the Second Day Met a Man who came from the Lower Towns Who told me I might save myself The Trouble of going Down for They had two Days before had a Battle with The White people. I immediately upon this Return'd & Determined Never to Interfere in The publick Affairs again, but Leave Every one to follow his Own Inclination.

I have since understood that it was Beemers Son in Law who Attacd. The white People, That he took a Little Flower from Them which was on Horses, but upon the coming up of Col. Grants Indians Immediately Run away with the Loss of Four Men & two women Kill'd, I did not hear of his taking any white mens Scalps upon This all The Indians below the Valley betook Themselves to The woods whose Towns Col Grant Intirely Destroy'd, & all in The Valley Likewise went off except a few Old men and Women Beemer himself went with his gang to settle in a small Town Near the Creek Nation call'd Chota — Since this I have Not heard of Col. Grant, Nor have Seen The Least Appearance of War —

The People are so starv'd for Provision That Several have been found Dead in The Paths, & were Reduc'd to kill Their Horses for Subsistance.

While I was at Keowe a Northern Indian Warrior wth Col. Grant took me by the hand, Said he esteem'd me as a friend & after some talk gave me a Twist of Tobo. Saying all Your People are sick give Them this Tobo. to Smoak, it is good Phisick, will Soon make Them well, bring Their Senses to Them again, and will make Them Think of The English as I do.

This is all I have to Tell You, believe it to be true, if it were Ten times worse I should Acquaint you with it. —

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In Conversation afterwards he Mention'd That The great Warrior and Some Others had been to Visit The French talk'd Humerously Humourdly of Their Poverty giving Them Buffaloe Skins instead of Cloathing, That a French Governer (I Sopose Orleans) Advis'd Them as his Children to come & see him after but above all things not to War with either the English or them, and it was Their Interest to Remain in peace.

That Many of the Cherokees who came into Keowe Settled Their were treated very Friendly.

Desir'd to have a full talk from Col. Byrd whom The nation Generally esteem'd a friend who always told Them The Truth, That when he Caried it home & gave it to the Head men he would go to Col. Grant & Offer his Service to carry any Letter The Col. would send by him & Return with it Imediately. —

the above is the substance of the Carpenter's Talk which very incorrectly wrote my own Indisposition havg. oblig'd me to employ a Serjeant to set it down.<sup>3</sup>

1 Attakulla-kulla (Little Carpenter), a prominent warrior among the Cherokees, and the avowed friend of the English.

2 Chickasaws.

3 This paragraph is in Captain Stewart's handwriting.